

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: March 18, 2004

Contact: Samantha Slapnik
Phone: 919/733-5612

GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 200 NEW JOBS FOR CATAWBA COUNTY

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that ZF Lemforder Corporation will locate its new facility in Newton, bringing 200 jobs and up to \$28.8 million in additional investment to the area. ZF Lemforder Corporation, an automobile component manufacturing and supply company, is the tenth recipient of an award under the new state Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG).

“ZF Lemforder Corporation’s decision to invest in Catawba County will mean sustainable, high skill, high paying manufacturing jobs for the area,” Easley said. “This is the kind of work that will not go offshore.

“Automotive-related industries have made significant investments in North Carolina over the past few years and now employ more than 120,000 people statewide. Companies are choosing to come to our state because of the low tax burden, excellent infrastructure and superior educational systems. Our business climate is ranked number one nationally and today’s announcement is proof our aggressive approach works.”

“This new facility is a key part of our suspension components strategy in North America,” said Jim Stacey, president and chief operating officer, ZF Lemforder Corporation Car Chassis Technology Division. “This new plant provides us with the space we need today and allows the opportunity to add future business.”

ZF Lemforder is the car chassis technology division of ZF Friedrichshafen AG, a leading worldwide supplier of driveline and chassis technology. Headquartered in Friedrichshafen, Germany, ZF is among the 15 largest automotive suppliers in the world. The company has a total workforce of 53,300 at 119 locations in 25 countries, and combined revenues for the group totaled more than \$10 billion in 2002.

ZF operates a large manufacturing network in North America, combined with global research and development capabilities, to provide advanced technology to the region. The ZF Group North American Operations Technical Center is located in Northville, Michigan. ZF employs a total workforce of 6,000 in the NAFTA region.

(more)

Governor's Press Office
State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27603-8001
(919) 733-5612 - Toll Free 1-800-662-7005
FAX (919) 733-5166